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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention
of Discrimination and
Protection of Minorities
Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 14

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Mr. Bengoa, Mr. Boutkevitch, Mr. Chernichenko, Mr. El-Hajjé, Mr. Hatano and Ms. Mbonu: draft resolution

1995/.. Permanent forum in the United Nations for indigenous people

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Bearing in mind the recommendation contained in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights that the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system should be considered (A/CONF.157/23, para. II.32),

Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/163 of 21 December 1993 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/30 of 3 March 1995,

Noting the report of the workshop held in accordance with Commission resolution 1995/30 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1995/7) and the views expressed by Governments (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1995/7/Add.1) and indigenous organizations (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1995/7/Add.3) and the note of the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, Ms. Erica-Irene Daes (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1995/7/Add.2),

Taking into account the comments and suggestions of participants at the thirteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations,

1. Welcomes the request to the Commission on Human Rights by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/163 of 21 December 1993 to give priority consideration to the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the workshop on the permanent forum for indigenous people (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1995/7) to Governments and intergovernmental and indigenous organizations inviting them to express their views concerning the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people and to report on the comments and suggestions received to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations at its fourteenth session;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to review existing mechanisms, procedures and programmes within the United Nations for promotion and coordination of the rights of indigenous people;

4. Recommends that the future permanent forum be established in the early part of the International Decade for the World's Indigenous People and that its mandate should include questions relating to human rights, development, the environment, health, education and culture;

5. Also recommends that the membership of the future permanent forum consist of independent experts as well as representatives of Governments and indigenous organizations and, subject to its being open to non-members, that it also be open to representatives of indigenous organizations without regard to consultative status;

6. Further recommends that the Centre for Human Rights organize a second workshop on a possible permanent forum for indigenous people with the

participation of independent experts as well as representatives of Governments, indigenous organizations and United Nations bodies and specialized agencies;

7. Decides to recommend to the Commission on Human Rights the following draft decision:

"The Commission on Human Rights, noting resolution ... of ... of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, endorses the recommendation that the Centre for Human Rights organize a second workshop on a possible permanent forum for indigenous people with the participation of independent experts and representatives of Governments, indigenous organizations and United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and requests the Secretary-General to prepare a review of existing mechanisms, procedures and programmes for coordination and promotion of the rights of indigenous people within the United Nations to be submitted as a background document for the proposed second workshop."

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